

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/971,878

Applicant(s)

LE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Narayanswamy Subramanian

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/2/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 16-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's communication filed on March 2, 2005. Amendments to the specification and claims 1 and 34 have been entered. The objections to specification and rejections made under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs in the last office action are withdrawn by the examiner in view of the amendments. Claims 1-9 and 16-34 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9 and 16-34 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. The closest valid prior art (Pool et al US Patent 6460020 B1) discloses a method and system of conducting an international transaction in goods between a buyer and a seller of the goods, comprising: identifying a source country from which the seller will ship the goods and a destination country to which the goods will be shipped, querying a shipping module to calculate a total shipping cost for shipping the goods along a shipping rout from the source country to the destination country, querying a brokering module to calculate a total brokering, cost for brokering the goods along the shipping rout, querying a tax module to calculate a total tax cost for the sale and transportation of the goods, providing a total cost to the buyer, the total cost including a sale price, the total shipping cost, the total brokering cost and the total tax cost, receiving authorization to conduct the transaction, and transmitting shipping instructions to a carrier.

Even though, the prior art teaches a method for performing the above-mentioned steps, the prior art of record fails to teach a method and system of conducting an international

Art Unit: 3624

transaction in goods between a buyer and a seller of the goods, including the steps of generating customs invoice information, which is additional to information on documents typically in transit-with purchased goods, for a first country and transmitting the customs invoice information to a brokering party for the first country. The prior art that teaches the step of generating customs invoices are (Delmer et al US Pub. No. 2003/0065725, Wells et al US Pub. No. 2003/0065726 and Le et al US Pub. No. 2003/0064949), which are all invalid under 35 USC 103© because they all have the same assignee as the current application. For these reasons claims 1 and 34 are deemed to be allowable over the cited prior art, and claims 2-9 and 16-33 are allowable by dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(a) Delmer et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0065725 A1) (April 3, 2003) Verified Message Broker.

(b) Wells et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0065726 A1) (April 3, 2003) Combined Message Broker.

© Le et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0065949 A1) (April 3, 2003) International Trade System

(d) Walker et al (US Pub. No. 2002/0095355 A1) (July 18, 2002) Computer-implemented International Trade System.

(e) Koyama et al (JP 02001243366 A) (September 7, 2001) Server Having Trade Job Supporting Function.

(f) Feil et al (WO 02/35382 A1) (May 2, 2002) Electronic International Trading.

(g) Cameron, Nadia "Calm before the storm (Customs Amendment Bill)" Business Asia, 9,4, 24, May 2001

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is (571) 272-6751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (571) 272-6747. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft to the Patent Office is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dr. N. Subramanian N.S.
September 19, 2005


HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER